

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
FILED 5-16-2018
WILLIAM W. BLEVINS
CLERK IG

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA * CRIMINAL NO. 17-73
v. * SECTION: "B"
JORGE BOLANOS * VIOLATION: 21 U.S.C. § 846
a/k/a "the Mexican" 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)
a/k/a "Gordo" * 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(B)

* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

The above-named defendant, **JORGE BOLANOS a/k/a "the Mexican" a/k/a "Gordo,"** has agreed to plead guilty as charged to Count One of the Indictment, in which he is charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of cocaine hydrochloride. Should this matter have proceeded to trial, the United States of America would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt, through the introduction of relevant, competent, and admissible testimonial, physical and demonstrative evidence, the following facts to support the allegation against defendant **JORGE BOLANOS a/k/a "the Mexican" a/k/a "Gordo."**

FBI's New Orleans Field Office ("FBI-New Orleans"), conducted an investigation of a drug trafficking organization with ties to the Southern District of Texas and the Eastern District of Louisiana. The investigation has revealed that **LEONARDO CASTILLO a/k/a "El Layo"** ("CASTILLO") was a Houston-based cocaine trafficker who sold multiple kilograms of cocaine. The investigation has identified **GABRIEL CARRETO-SANCHEZ ("CARRETO") a/k/a "El Buki"** and **JORGE BOLANOS ("BOLANOS") a/k/a "the Mexican" a/k/a "Gordo"** as two of



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CASTILLO's customers. The investigation has revealed that CARRETO has traveled from the New Orleans, Louisiana area to Houston to meet with CASTILLO and received cocaine from him.

The investigative techniques utilized during this investigation include orders authorizing the interception of wire and electronic communications over a telephone assigned number (281) 660-1022 ("Telephone #1"), utilized by **BOLANOS**, and (832) 713-1571 ("Telephone #2"), utilized by CASTILLO.

Intercepted telephone calls made clear that CASTILLO was **BOLANOS's** supplier, and that CARRETO traveled from New Orleans to Houston and back again to deliver drugs/money for **BOLANOS**.

For example, on April 2, 2017, at approximately 8:04 PM, CASTILLO, using Telephone #2, received an incoming call from **BOLANOS**. During that conversation, **BOLANOS** stated, "What's up crazy?" **BOLANOS** asked, "you had called me?" CASTILLO responded, "Yeah, man, what was I going to tell you?" Later in the conversation, CASTILLO stated, "Oh that one had told me that shit came out short." **BOLANOS** replied, "Last night we sent you the picture when we were there at the house. It's been twice that it comes out to 489." CASTILLO said, "Take 2 bucks out of it man." **BOLANOS** then said, "2 bucks, nah." CASTILLO stated, "Well how much do you want man, 89?" **BOLANOS** responded, "Yeah, 489. There are 11 points gone just there. They are giving you the short part, they are keeping the 500. That's what's happening." **BOLANOS** later said, "What was I going to tell you, um... There is a guy that is stubborn... do you think you can bring the other half and take this paper? So that dude (unintelligible) by himself. Or you can't?" CASTILLO asked, "you want a half?" **BOLANOS** replied, "That it, I have a guy that is going to want to get it all but what I want to see if is I can (unintelligible) so I can bring you this shit, so that you can take the papers once and for all? If not, If not..." CASTILLO responded,


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“That’s what I’m telling you.” **BOLANOS** then said, “This guy had 3 orders (unintelligible) right now, you already know. It’s too much.”

CASTILLO stated, “Yes. That’s why I tell you, you want a whole one then?” **BOLANOS** responded, “No, what I’m trying to tell you is... well if they give you a whole one fine but not (unintelligible). The thing is that, that if you assure me that... what I have will give to this dude right now once and for all and then he will be in charge of... you understand?” **CASTILLO** replied, “Oh okay, okay.” Later in the conversation, **BOLANOS** asked, “Okay, so for when, tomorrow?” **CASTILLO** said, “If you are interested I just need you to confirm with me dude so that, if you tell me yes, I will let it go in the morning really quick.” Subsequently, toward the end of the conversation, **CASTILLO** said, “I can call this dude back and do a deal with him once and for all.”

FBI believes that during this call, **BOLANOS** informed **CASTILLO** that a prior shipment of cocaine, which was intended to be one half kilogram, was short 11 grams. Specifically, they know, based on their training and experience, that cocaine traffickers commonly discuss cocaine describing the weight of the substance. Therefore, they believe that when **BOLANOS** discussed, “489,” he was referring to 489 grams of cocaine. Moreover, FBI believes that when **BOLANOS** said, “11 points gone,” he was telling **CASTILLO** that his prior shipment was missing 11 grams, which when added to the 489 grams, would have been one half kilogram. Moreover, they know that the term “half” is commonly used by cocaine traffickers to refer to one half kilogram, and that a “whole one” is a term commonly used by cocaine traffickers to refer to one kilogram of cocaine. Therefore, they believe that when **CASTILLO** asked **BOLANOS** whether he wanted a “half,” or a “whole one,” he was asking whether **BOLANOS** wanted to purchase one half kilogram or one kilogram of cocaine. Moreover, they know that the term “paper” is commonly used by narcotics traffickers to refer to money. Therefore, they believe that when **BOLANOS** asked if **CASTILLO**

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would give “one half,” and would take “paper”, he was asking whether CASTILLO could provide cocaine and **BOLANOS** would then provide money for payment.

Later on April 2, 2017, at approximately 8:33 PM, CASTILLO, using Telephone #2, received an incoming call from **BOLANOS**. During that conversation, CASTILLO said, “Like I tell you, I could go for that thing and bring you the other one. You understand? There would not be a problem.” **BOLANOS** said, “But for when would it be?” CASTILLO said, “Well for tomorrow.” **BOLANOS** said, “No yeah, but what about the other?” CASTILLO said, “The other would be for just getting here and I would come and cancel and I would go over there again to bring it to you.” **BOLANOS** said, “You think that by Wednesday?” CASTILLO said, “yes.” Later, **BOLANOS** said, “Check to see if by Wednesday you can do it for me.” CASTILLO said, “Yes, it’s already confirmed. You just tell me, you confirm with me and I will quickly move.”

FBI believe that during this call, CASTILLO informed **BOLANOS** that he would have cocaine available to sell to **BOLANOS** on Wednesday, which would be April 5, 2017.

FBI has also intercepted telephone calls between CASTILLO, utilizing Telephone #2, and CARRETO, using a telephone assigned number (404) 901-9582 (“Telephone #3”). Specifically, on April 3, 2017, at approximately 4:59 PM, CASTILLO, using Target Telephone #1, received an incoming call from CARRETO, using Telephone #3. During that conversation, CASTILLO asked, “What’s up Buki?” Later, CASTILLO asked, “Have you seen Gordo?” CARRETO said, “Yes, I saw him in the morning and he told me that he wanted me to go over there today, but I told him until tomorrow.” CASTILLO said, “Alright, and what’s up? Is it yes or no?” CARRETO responded, “Yes, tomorrow in the morning.” CASTILLO asked, “You’re coming tomorrow?” CARRETO said, “Yes.” Later, CARRETO said, “He wanted to send me today, but I couldn’t today because I’m drunk but tomorrow, yes.” Later, CASTILLO said, “Don’t go crazy. Calm down.”

(Handwritten initials)
(Handwritten initials)
(Handwritten initials)

CARRETO said later, "That's good then. I will see you tomorrow if they send me over there."

CASTILLO responded, "Okay, perfect old man. That's it."

FBI believes that during this conversation, CARRETO and CASTILLO discussed that CARRETO would travel to Houston to meet with CASTILLO to procure cocaine on behalf of BOLANOS. Specifically, they know that CARRETO utilizes the nickname "El Buki." In addition, they know that BOLANOS utilizes the nickname "Gordo." Therefore, they believe that when CASTILLO asked whether CARRETO had seen "Gordo," he was asking whether CARRETO had spoken to BOLANOS. They believe that during this conversation, based on the prior intercepted calls, CARRETO was telling CASTILLO that he would travel on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 to Houston to meet with CASTILLO to complete the cocaine transaction that CASTILLO and BOLANOS had previously discussed.

On April 4, 2017, FBI obtained a Court order authorizing the acquisition of geolocation information for telephones utilized by CARRETO, BOLANOS, and CASTILLO for a period of 14 days. Service for CASTILLO's phone, however, was terminated on that day, and therefore no location information or additional intercepted telephone calls were acquired after April 4, 2017. Location information for BOLANOS's phone indicated that BOLANOS was located in the New Orleans area. Moreover, location information for CARRETO's phone indicated that CARRETO was located in Houston, Texas.

On that day, surveillance was established near CASTILLO's residence, located at 7234 Bywood Street, Houston, Texas ("CASTILLO's Residence") by Special Agent Deonte Eans of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") Houston Division. During that surveillance at approximately 6:00 p.m., Agent Eans observed CASTILLO in the rear of that residence exercising. Agent Eans was able to identify CASTILLO from a picture provided by the Harris County District

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Attorney's Office. Shortly after this observation, Agent Eans observed CARRETO park near CASTILLO's Residence in a Silver 2005 Ford Expedition bearing Louisiana license plate ZNM446. Agent Eans was able to identify CARRETO from a photograph provided to him from a government database. CARRETO then exited the vehicle with an unidentified Hispanic female and entered the CASTILLO's Residence approximately 6:15 p.m. Later, Agent Eans observed CARRETO leaving CASTILLO's Residence empty-handed.

On Thursday, April 6, 2017 at approximately 11:42 a.m., GPS data for CARRETO's phone revealed that CARRETO was again at CASTILLO's Residence. GPS data then revealed that CARRETO started traveling east towards New Orleans, Louisiana immediately after departing from CASTILLO's Residence.

Later that day, at approximately 3:00 p.m., members of FBI conducted a traffic stop on a Silver 2005 Ford Expedition bearing Louisiana license plate ZNM446 on Interstate 10 near mile marker 197, in the Eastern District of Louisiana. CARRETO was observed driving the vehicle, and was the sole occupant. After the traffic stop was conducted, a K-9 unit from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office ("JPSO") conducted a free air sniff on the vehicle where she alerted near the glove box on the front passenger side of the vehicle. Agent Brown searched the area where the K-9 alerted and found approximately one kilogram of cocaine hidden behind the radio of the vehicle. The cocaine field tested positive. CARRETO was then released to further the investigation.

On April 17, 2017, after FBI obtained arrest warrants for CARRETO, **BOLANOS**, and CASTILLO, all three were arrested: CARRETO and **BOLANOS** at their residences in New Orleans, and CASTILLO at his residence in Houston, which was 7234 Bywood Street. Numerous cellphones were seized, and approximately \$19,000 in U.S. currency was seized from

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BOLANOS's house.

This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by **BOLANOS**, but is a minimum statement of facts intended to prove the necessary factual predicate for the guilty plea. The limited purpose of this proffer is to demonstrate that there exists a sufficient legal and factual basis for **BOLANOS's** plea of guilty to these crimes.

READ AND APPROVED:



JONATHAN L. SHIH (Date) 5/16/18
Assistant United States Attorney



DAVID ARENA, ESQ. (Date) 5-16-2018
Attorney for Defendant



JORGE BOLANOS (Date) 5-16-2018
Defendant